

Medical Society for the Study of Venereal Diseases

The Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1M 8AE

Honorary Secretary's Report to the 66th Annual General Meeting, held on 30 October 1987

During the past year 43 new members have been elected. Membership to date is 535, 148 being resident overseas. In the past year three honorary life members were elected: Drs GW Csonka, CS Ratnatunga, and PJJ Sequeira. At present there are 25 honorary life members, 20 being resident in the United Kingdom.

Six ordinary meetings were held during the year. The society is most grateful to Ortho-Cilag Pharmaceutical Limited who gave full financial support for these meetings.

The spring meeting of the society was held jointly with Nederlandse Vereniging voor Studie van Sexueel Overdraagbare Aandoeningen, (Dutch Society for the Study of Sexually Transmitted Diseases) at Antwerp, Belgium on 14–16 May. There were 58 papers presented, together with 40 papers shown as posters. The overall standard was very high. The meeting was well attended and much interesting discussion ensued. During the course of the meeting on 15 May, The Harrison Lecture 1987 was held. The invited speaker was Dr KK Holmes of the University of Washington, Seattle, USA, and the title of his lecture was "Pelvic inflammatory disease: recent studies of diagnoses, aetiology, and pathogenesis". The society is most grateful to Dr KK Holmes for his memorable visit. The society thanks Professor P Piot, (President, NVSSOA) and Professor A Meheus who did so much to make the scientific and social events of the spring meeting so memorable and enjoyable. The society is grateful to all the phar-

maceutical houses who contributed towards financing the spring meeting, in particular Bayer UK Limited who gave a most substantial sum towards delegates from the United Kingdom.

The sixth genitourinary study weekend for junior doctors in the specialty was held at Tetley Hall, University of Leeds, on 4–5 April. Over 80 doctors attended. It was most successful, and the society is indebted to Bayer UK, who gave full financial support for the meeting. The next weekend will be 16–17 April 1988 and will again be at Leeds. Bayer UK has again promised full support.

The sexually transmitted diseases discussion group held two meetings during the year, on 6 January at St Mary's Hospital Medical School and on 14 July at the General Infirmary at Leeds. We are indebted to Dr CW Penn, for his continued secretarial work for the group.

The Council of the society held six meetings at which all current items of interest to the specialty were fully discussed. Of particular importance was the effect of publicity on human immunodeficiency virus infections and the consequences to staffing and pressures on clinics. On behalf of the Council, the president, Drs AG Lawrence and DSL Tchamouroff, and the honorary secretary prepared a memorandum for the Health and Social Services Committee of the House of Commons on the management of human immunodeficiency virus infections.

The society is represented on the following bodies: the British Federation against the

Venereal Diseases, The Genitourinary Medicine Sub-committee to the British Medical Association, the Standing Advisory Committee for Higher Medical Training, and the British Co-operative Clinical Group, which is run under the secretaryship of Dr GR Kinghorn.

Genitourinary Medicine, volume 62 in 1986, consisted of 434 pages and contained 82 papers, 13 book reviews, 21 letters to the editor, and 32 pages listing current publications. During 1986, 53% of the papers submitted were rejected. We are grateful for the continued hard work of the editor, Dr A McMillan.

The society is most grateful to the Royal Society of Medicine for enabling us to have continued use of its premises for our meetings.

I should like to thank my personal secretary, Mrs Elizabeth Smith, who has retired having given her services splendidly to the society for many years. I should also like to thank the acting honorary treasurer, Dr JS Bingham, whose wise stewardship has enabled us to prosper for another year. We welcome him now he has been duly elected as honorary treasurer. Lastly, I thank the president, Dr JW Oriel, whose support, wise counsel, and leadership have been of enormous help not only to be but to all members of the society in the past two years.

*M A Waugh
Honorary Secretary
MSSVD*